(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the space research scientists have planned to launch their space shuttle in the space; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has been successful in developing world class satellites and launch vehicles/ rockets and utilising space systems in areas relevant to national development in a coast-effective manner.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Government have no plans to launch a space shuttle.

Central Projects

2732. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Central Projects in progress;

(b) the amount spent thereon; and

(c) by when these are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) As on 1.7.2001, there are 461 projects in the Central Sector each costing Rs.20 crores and above under implementation.

(b) The amount spent on these 461 projects as on 1.7.2001 is Rs.54,340.92 crores against the currently anticipated cost of Rs.1,69,489 crores.

(c) According to the present completion schedule of projects, 113 projects are expected to be completed in the year 2001-2002, 80 projects in the year 2002-2003, 44 projects in the year 2003-2004 and 16 projects in the year 2004-2005. The balance 208 projects will be commissioned beyond March, 2005.

Release of money from MPLADS to Engineering Department

2733. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MPLADS fund when released to any State Government Engineering Department, the money is being deposited in the State Government account and again being released in the shape of L.C. which is creating problems for implementation; and

(b) whether Government propose to issue a direction to the State Governments to spend the money at the District level without depositing the same in the State Government account?